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Weights of some New Caledonian birds

by Charles A. Ross

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In August and September 1986 I spent 24 days in the Southern District of New Caledonia collecting avian anatomical specimens for use in systematic studies and to provide comparative material for identifying collections of Holocene fossils (see Balouet & Olson, in press). Of the 360 specimens obtained, 253 were Passeriformes and included 21 of the 24 native, resident species of passerines (Hannecart & Letocart 1980, 1983).

Collections were made at 5 localities: Mount Dzumac, c. 25 km NE of Noumea; La Foa and vicinity; Bouloupari and vicinity; Sarramea; and the Reserve Forestiere du Col D'Amieu, c. 10 km NE of Sarramea. The Col D'Amieu and Mount Dzumac localities are at 400–1000 m a.s.l. and forested. The other localities are on the western coastal plain and are open savannah with scrub and secondary forest, except the Sarramea locality which is mixed forest and agricultural lands (coffee and fruit trees).

Weights were obtained using pesola spring scales (10, 30, 100, 300 and 1000 g). I know of no published records of weights for many of the following species, although Warner (unpubl. doctoral thesis 1947) presents weights for most species taken from specimens obtained by Thomas L. Macmillan while he was collecting in New Caledonia for the Whitney South Seas Expeditions (1937–1939).

In instances where the sex of specimens is noted, sex was determined by dissection and examination of gonads. Species level nomenclature follows Morony *et al.* (1975). All specimens are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

The weight of each individual to the nearest 0.5 g (for birds less than 50 g) or 1 g (for heavier birds) is listed for samples of 6 or fewer birds. The mean, standard deviation, range and sample size are given for larger samples. In instances where samples are analysed by sex, the entire sample including unsexed birds is presented first. A query indicates sex unknown.

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae leucosternos ♂ 242; ♀ 189

Haliastur m. melanoleucos (adult) ♂ 920; ♀ 570, 570, 630, 670, 700, 730; ?680

Nycticorax c. caledonicus ♂ 810

Anas poecilorhyncha pelewensis ♂ 990; ♀ 960

Accipiter haplochrous ♂ 152, 152, 162; ♀ 227, 268, 268

Porphyrio poliocephalus caledonicus ♂ 840, 840; ♀ 690, 690, 820 gravid

Columba vitiensis hypoenochroa ♂ 410, 430

Drepanoptila holosericea ♂ 210; ?220

Ducula goliath ♀ 600

Trichoglossus haematodus deplanchi ♂ 109

Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae saisseti ?72

Collocalia esculenta albidior ♂ 5.0; ♀ 5.0, 5.5

Collocalia spodiopygia leucopygia 6.8 ± 0.6 (6.0–8.5, N=31); ♂ 6.6 ± 0.5 (6.0–7.5, N=10); ♀ 7.1 ± 0.6 (6.0–8.5, N=14)

Halcyon sancta canacorum ♂ 36.5, 41.0, 41.5, 43.0; ♀ 39.5, 43.5

Aplonis s. striata ♂ 53, 60; ?49.5

Artamus leucorhynchus melaleucus ♂ 33.0, 36.0, 37.0; ♀ 31.5, 36.0, 39.5

Corvus moneduloides 275.4 ± 31.5 (230–330, N=22); ♂ 289.3 ± 9.9 (280–310, N=7); ♀ 275.4 ± 36.3 (230–330, N=13)

Coracina analis ♂ 97; ♀ 70

Coracina c. caledonica 138.6 ± 16.0 (117–180, N=21); ♂ 149.1 ± 13.6 (135–180, N=8); ♀ 132.8 ± 17.1 (117–170, N=9)

Lalage leucopygia montrosieri ♂ 16.5, 21.0

Gerygone f. flavolateralis 6.3 ± 0.3 (5.5–6.5, N=12)

Megalalurus mariei 25.0 ± 2.7 (20.05–29.25, N=14); ♂ 26.9 ± 1.5 (24.45–29.25, N=8); ♀ 20.05, 22.1, 22.3, 22.7, 23.5, 24.45 (from Warner 1947)

Eopsaltria flaviventris ♂ 14.0; ♀ 10.5, 14.5

Clytorhynchus p. pachycephaloides ♂ 24.5, 25.0

Myiagra c. caledonica 10.8 ± 0.7 (10.0–12.0, N=11)

Rhipidura fuliginosa bulgeri 6.6 ± 0.7 (6.0–8.0, N=11)

Rhipidura spilodera verreauxi ♂ 11.0, 11.2, 12.0; ♀ 9.2, 9.7, 9.85, 10.2 (from Warner 1947)

- Pachycephala caledonica* 20.9±1.3 (18.0–23.0, N=17)
Pachycephala rufiventris xanthetraea 18.2±1.8 (15.5–23.0, N=20); ♂
 18.4±1.5 (16.5–22.0, N=11); ♀ 17.6±1.5 (15.5–19.0, N=7)
Zosterops lateralis griseonota 11.6±0.9 (10.5–13.0, N=7)
Zosterops xanthochroa 10.3±0.9 (8.5–12.0, N=46); ♂ 10.4±0.8 (9.0–12.0,
 N=18); ♀ 9.9±0.8 (9.0–11.5, N=13)
Gymnomyza aubryana ♂ 211.0, 230.6, 284.2; ♀ 151.8, 159.3 (from Warner
 1947)
Lichmera i. incana 13.1±2.0 (9.5–14.5, N=8)
Myzomela sanguinolenta caledonica ♂ 7.5, 8.2; ♀ 6.9, 6.6
Philemon diemenensis 69.3±8.9 (53.0–84.0, N=22); ♂ 74.5±3.9 (69.5–
 84.0, N=9); ♀ 53.0, 55.0, 56.0, 62.0, 62.0, 62.0
Phylidonyris undulata ♀ 16.0
Erythrura psittacea ♂ 11.5

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Variation in the Ground Woodpecker *Geocolaptes olivaceus*

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The endemic austral African Ground Woodpecker *Geocolaptes olivaceus* (Gmelin), 1788: Cape of Good Hope, is restricted to the Cape Province south of the Orange R., extending north of this in the east of its tenuous